

S. African Anti-Red Parley

By Stanley Uys
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CAPE TOWN—A collection of world-wide "experts" has just left South Africa after attending an "International Symposium on Communism," held in Pretoria under the chairmanship of the Rev. Dr. J. D. Vorster, brother of the Republic's new Prime Minister, Balthazar Johannes Vorster.

By the time the symposium had run half of its allotted four days, the American exponent of anti-communism Maj. Edgar Bundy, had virtually taken over the proceedings.

He had denounced the World Council of Churches as a "Communist front," declared the U.S. State Department

was riddled with Communists, and warned that various churches in South Africa (excluding the pro-government Dutch Reformed Churches) were infiltrated with communism.

Bundy joined issue early with the English-language (opposition-supporting) press. One by one, nearly all the English language press representatives—all of whom were present by invitation — were ejected from the hall.

Campaign Denied

One was thrown out for, in his own words, "failing to pay sufficient attention to Major Bundy." He went to buy cigarettes during Bundy's speech.

The secretary of the symposium, G. H. Beetge, later em-

phatically denied that there had been a campaign to get rid of the representatives of South Africa's English-language press.

Beetge is secretary of the permanent Congress to Combat Communism, a new organization. This Congress regards the English-language press, which far exceeds in circulation the Afrikaans-language (government-supporting) newspapers, as its mortal enemy.

At the symposium were: Prof. Nicholas Nyaradi, Minister of Finance in the last Hungarian cabinet before the Communists took over; Prof. Stefan Possony, head of the Hoover Institute for Peace, War and Revolution of the

University of Stanford; Mrs. J. B. Mathews and Mrs. Edna W. Alexander; Luis Monrara, who fled from Cuba to escape the Castro regime; Bundy, executive secretary of the Church League of America; Nathaniel Weil, who has written books on communism; and Suzanne Labin, of France, a well-known writer.

Room Bugged

The symposium heard Mines. Labia describe big foundations such as the Ford Foundation as "instruments" for the furtherance of communism, because they provided "progressive intellectuals" with the money to travel and write, and these intellectuals, through their philosophy,

Dominated by U.S. Rightist

blunted people's resistance to communism.

The symposium heard also how Bundy "bugged his room in New York when a Dutch Reformed Church minister from South Africa, the Rev. J. H. P. van Rooyen (not a right-winger), had called on him to discuss race issues. He accused van Rooyen of spreading the "smear" that Bundy supported race integration.

A pro-government newspaper in Cape Town, Die Burger, has reacted sharply to Bundy's "bugging" methods. It says the tape-recording of private conversations has become a moral issue of Orwellian dimensions.

On the eve of the symposium

van Rooyen had published a book "Communism in the Church?" to alert the church against the dangers of right-wing extremism in combating communism. He strongly attacked certain Dutch Reformed Church ministers for their connection with extremist McCarthyite organizations in America.

Some Dissenters

It is no coincidence that the Dutch Reformed churches in South Africa, to which nearly all government members belong, are in the thick of the controversy over communism. The Congress to Combat Communism was started mainly to

silence the growing body of dissenters within the Afrikaans churches over the race issue.

The enthusiasm with which the Congress has set to work—it has a national board "to fight communism," with a chairman, a vice chairman and a full-time director — has alarmed some government politicians and newspapers, though.

One government member of Parliament, Pen Kotze, said, "The time has come to warn our members against a small group of people among whom it has become an obsession to find a liberal or a Communist around every corner."

Among the African speak-

ers at the symposium were Dr. J. D. Vorster, Maj. Gen. H. J. van den Bergh (chief of South Africa's security police), and Prof. P. F. D. Weiss, director of the African Institute in Pretoria.

Dr. Vorster, referring to Hendrik Verwoed's assassination, said: "Our leader was torn away, but the enemy will not be satisfied with the death of one man."

Other government spokesmen, including a cabinet minister, have spoken in this strain about the assassination, suggesting that it was a symbolic blow struck by the anti-apartheid conspiracy. This talk is being heard more frequently in South Africa today.